

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LATINO CAUCUS CELEBRATES ITS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND CINCO DE MAYO BY HONORING LATINO ICONS**

*2003 honorees include Carlos Santana, Rita Moreno, Andy Garcia,  
George Lopez, Vikki Carr and Gregory Nava.*

**Sacramento, Ca-** The California Latino Legislative Caucus celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Cinco de Mayo by honoring various celebrities and community leaders who exemplify the Latino community.

“Our children need and deserve positive role models, therefore, it is important to honor those Latinos that have truly open the door and paved the way for others to follow, said Assembly Member Sarah Reyes (D-Fresno), Event Chair, Latino Spirit Awards. “The Latino Spirit Awards recognizes individuals who exemplify the true spirit of our community and who further the understanding and acceptance of our Latino culture and traditions worldwide.”

The 2003 recipients of the Latino Caucus “Latino Spirit Awards” have contributed extensively to world of music, film, television, sports, comedy and service. The honorees included:

- **Carlos Santana**, Grammy Winning Artist
- **Rita Moreno**, Oscar Winning Actress
- **Andy Garcia**, Actor
- **George Lopez**, Comedian & Actor
- **Vikki Carr**, Artist
- **Gregory Nava**, Film Producer
- **Derek Parra**, Speed Skating Olympic Gold Medalist
- **Tom Flores**, Former coach & quarterback, Oakland Raiders
- **Valerie Menard**, Author
- **Nativo Lopez**, Community Activist
- **Alejandro R. Ruiz**, Decorated Veteran

In addition, the following businesses will be honored:

- **HBO**
- **Nickelodeon**
- **Carmona Production**

“It is truly an honor to pay tribute to such a dynamic group of individuals many of whom are true pioneers in their respective fields, said Assembly Majority Floor Leader Marco A. Firebaugh (D-South Gate), Latino Caucus Chair. “This year’s celebration also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Latino Caucus. We have come along way from our five founding Democratic Assembly Members. Today, our twenty-four members hold strategic leadership positions in the State Legislature. Our focus continues to be on improving the quality of life for California’s working families.”

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